UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.2/47/5
5 November 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 87

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Letter dated 4 November 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith, the text of the joint statement of the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the United Nations on humanitarian assistance to the Sudan. This document also contains provisions of the agreement concluded between the two parties on 16 September 1992, following the visit of Mr. Jan Eliasson, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.

I would be grateful if you could kindly circulate the enclosed document as a General Assembly document under agenda item 87, entitled "Special economic and disaster relief assistance".

(Signed) Ahmed SULIMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Sudan to the United Nations

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Annex

JOINT STATEMENT DATED 16 SEPTEMBER 1992 OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SUDAN AND THE UNITED NATIONS ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SUDAN

At the invitation of the Government of the Sudan, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Jan Eliasson, undertook a mission to the Sudan on 13-16 September 1992. He was received on 15 September by Lt.-General Omer Hassan Ahmed El Bashir, Head of the Command Council for the National Salvation Revolution of the Sudan, to review humanitarian operations in the Sudan. This meeting was the culmination of Mr. Eliasson's mission to the Sudan.

During his trip, the Under-Secretary-General also met and held discussions with high-level government officials, representatives of the diplomatic community and representatives of national as well as international non-governmental organizations. While in the Sudan, Mr. Eliasson visited the squatter resettlement areas and camps for the displaced in Greater Khartoum, and undertook a mission to Juba, where he took note of the resumption of United Nations relief flights.

In the meeting with the President of the Sudan, Under-Secretary-General Eliasson expressed the appreciation of the United Nations for the continuing support of the Government and people of the Sudan in providing asylum to hundreds of thousands of refugees over the past two decades.

The President briefed Under-Secretary-General Eliasson on the efforts of the Government towards the achievement of social and economic development in all parts of the country and the emphasis it places on attaining self-sufficiency in food. In this context, both sides noted with satisfaction the cooperation and collaboration efforts between the Government and the various United Nations agencies in the area of developmental activities. The Government of the Sudan, however, urged that more developmental assistance be forthcoming.

The Government of the Sudan reaffirmed its commitment to the principles of Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) as a landmark in humanitarian assistance. The Government of the Sudan and the United Nations also reiterated their firm support for the Addis Ababa Declaration on Humanitarian Issues. Within the framework of these principles, the Government of the Sudan and the United Nations reaffirmed the critical importance of access to all people in need of humanitarian assistance wherever they may be, respect for the neutrality of relief operations and the fundamental necessity for transparency. Agreement was reached on the following points:

1. The Government of the Sudan and the United Nations reviewed the operation of OLS and agreed that effective mechanisms should be devised to provide prompt and effective humanitarian assistance, taking into account developments which would provide greater means of implementation and the possibility of increased utilization of food from national production.

2. The Government of the Sudan and the United Nations reconfirmed the responsibility of the Government in providing overall coordination of emergency relief assistance as set out in the Addis Ababa Declaration on Humanitarian Issues. The Government requested the United Nations to coordinate all relief assistance to populations in conflict-affected areas.

3. The United Nations will endeavour to review its overall relief operations in the Sudan, including its office in Nairobi, with a view to enhancing overall operational coherence and effectiveness. The United Nations will also take the necessary measures to ensure that information is made available in a timely fashion to the Government of the Sudan.

4. The Government of the Sudan will endeavour to streamline relevant governmental bodies and to review its coordination mechanisms with a view to ensuring that emergency issues can be expeditiously addressed and resolved.

5. The Government of the Sudan commits itself to provide the United Nations with access to all populations in need, wherever they may be, and to expedite procedures for the prompt and effective distribution of relief assistance within the framework of its sovereignty. The Government of the Sudan offered the use of corridors for the prompt delivery and distribution of humanitarian assistance, as appended to this statement.

6. The Government of the Sudan recognizes the useful role of non-governmental organizations in addressing humanitarian needs in the Sudan. The Government will intensify its efforts to facilitate the necessary procedures in order to expedite the entry, travel and work of the non-governmental organizations, undertaken with full observance of national policies and laws.

7. Agreement was reached on the need for support of the United Nations and the international community to facilitate the voluntary return of Sudanese refugees and the voluntary repatriation of refugees from neighbouring countries in the Sudan.

8. The Government of the Sudan and the United Nations urged that special attention be given to protect minors caught up in conflict situations and unaccompanied minor refugees in neighbouring countries. Both pledged to make every effort to facilitate the voluntary repatriation and reuniting of unaccompanied minors with their families.

9. Both parties agreed that a concerted effort must be made, including the effective mobilization of resources, to support the transition from relief to recovery, rehabilitation and development in the Sudan, in the spirit of General Assembly resolution 46/182.

10. The United Nations will appoint a Special Emissary for follow-up with the Government and to ensure that timely assistance is provided to all those in need throughout the country.

APPENDIX TO THE JOINT STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SUDAN AND THE UNITED NATIONS ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SUDAN

In response to a proposal from the United Nations to access affected populations in southern Sudan, the Government of the Sudan presented a counter proposal for corridors to be used by the United Nations. It was noted that many of the corridors proposed are the same. The following corridors were agreed:

(a) River: Nile and Sobat corridors;

(b) Air operations:

For the purpose of assessing the situation, providing relief and monitoring assistance, the following destinations were agreed: Anzara, Liang, Mundri, Thiat, Leer, Akobo, Waat, Mayom, Abum, Nasir, Torit, Malakal, Kapoeta, Yei, Yirol, Aweil, Gogrial, Bor, Pibor, Juba, Wau and Pochalla. These represent 21 of the 30 destinations proposed by the United Nations;

(c) Land corridors:

Road corridors proposed either by the United Nations or by the Government and the operational details of these corridors would be subject to further discussions.